



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA VITAL FOR HK	1
RISE IN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES COMPLAINTS	1
SAVE-WATER PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED	3
REMINDER ON FIREWORKS BAN	4
FREE NEW YEAR POSTER ON WORK SAFETY	5
BUS TOUR TO SPREAD FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE	5
THREE WORKSHOPS, SEMINAR ORGANISED FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH	6
REVISED OPENING TIME FOR SAI KUNG WSD CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE	6

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1991

- 1 -

GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA VITAL FOR HK

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF HIS VISIT TO CHINA WAS TO GO AND DEAL WITH ANY ISSUE THAT FACED HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE COMMUNITY CHEST WALK, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE BACKGROUND TO THAT WAS THAT A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA WAS VITAL FOR THE TERRITORY.

"WE WANT A SENSIBLE RELATIONSHIP, WE WANT A GOOD RELATIONSHIP. THAT'S ENTIRELY THE BACKGROUND OF MY VISIT, AND THAT'S THE OBJECTIVE OF MY VISIT AS WELL," HE SAID.

ASKED HOW THE DIFFERENCE WITH THE CHINESE ON THE NEW AIRPORT ISSUE COULD BE IRONED OUT, THE GOVERNOR SAID : "HOW EXACTLY TO FIND A WAY THROUGH IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SAY AT THE MOMENT, BUT I AM GOING TO GO AND TALK ABOUT IT,"

"I AM GOING IN ORDER TO DISCUSS IT AND TO SEE IF WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS ON IT WITH THE BACKGROUND IN MIND THAT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT INDEED FOR HONG KONG AND FOR THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG THAT WE SHOULD GO ON IN HONG KONG WITH THE BUILDING UP THE INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING UP THE THINGS HONG KONG NEEDS TO MAKE ITSELF A GENUINE COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD,"

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO GO BECAUSE THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHINESE.

"LET ME SAY THAT IT IS NOT SIMPLY CONFINED TO THE QUESTION OF THE AIRPORT. THERE ARE LOT OF OTHER THINGS THAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT, SO I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I SHOULD GO," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RISE IN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES COMPLAINTS

* * * * *

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST TRADERS USING INACCURATE WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT IS ON THE RISE.

DURING 1989, WHEN THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE CAME INTO EFFECT, THERE WERE 94 COMPLAINTS. LAST YEAR, THE FIGURE HAD INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY TO 238.

THE FIGURES WERE RELEASED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

THE PRINCIPAL TRADE CONTROLS OFFICER OF THE CUSTOMS TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MR ANDREW WONG, SAID 231 OF LAST YEAR'S COMPLAINTS WERE LODGED BY INDIVIDUALS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINTS HOTLINE, WHILE THE REMAINDER CAME THROUGH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL.

/MR WONG

MR WONG SAID MORE THAN 70 PER CENT OF THE COMPLAINTS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST RETAILERS OF VARIOUS FOOD ITEMS, AND THE REST WERE AGAINST PETROL STATIONS, SCRAP DEALERS AND SEAFOOD RESTAURANTS.

ON THE NATURE OF COMPLAINTS, HE SAID 204 WERE ABOUT INACCURATE WEIGHING EQUIPMENT, MAINLY THE "CHING" AND SLANTED SPRING BALANCES, 16 WERE ABOUT INACCURATE MEASURING EQUIPMENT AND 18 ABOUT SHORT WEIGHT OF GOODS.

DURING THE YEAR, OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT ALSO CONDUCTED 279 SPOT CHECKS ON RETAILERS' WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT.

"MOST OF THE CHECKS WERE MADE AT SHOPS OR STALLS AT MARKETS FROM WHICH COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN MADE," MR WONG SAID.

AS A RESULT OF THESE SPOT CHECKS AND INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMPLAINTS, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT ISSUED WARNINGS TO 78 TRADERS AND PROSECUTED A FURTHER 43.

TOTAL FINES IMPOSED BY THE COURTS IN 1990 IN RESPECT OF OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE AMOUNTED TO \$104,050, COMPARED WITH \$17,000 THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN RECENT CASES A SEAFOOD RETAILER AND A MEAT RETAILER WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$3,500 AFTER TESTS BY THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY HAD SHOWN THAT THE READINGS OF THEIR WEIGHING INSTRUMENTS WERE 12.5 TO 18.75 PER CENT IN EXCESS OF THE ACTUAL WEIGHTS.

A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE WAS LAUNCHED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

TO ENCOURAGE CONSUMERS TO REPORT WEIGHTS AND MEASURES MALPRACTICES, POSTERS PUBLICISING A COMPLAINTS HOTLINE ARE DISPLAYED AT ALL MARKET PLACES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, MR WONG SAID.

HE SAID LEAFLETS, AND TELEVISION AND RADIO MESSAGES HAD ALSO BEEN USED IN THE CAMPAIGN.

CONSUMERS WHO SUSPECTED THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN SHORT WEIGHT OR MEASURE SHOULD TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT ON 714 6146 DURING OFFICE HOURS OR 852 3185 OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1991

- 3 -

SAVE-WATER PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

* * * * *

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS MOUNTING A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO URGE THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO SAVE WATER, AND TO PROMPTLY CHECK AND REPAIR CONCEALED OR UNDERGROUND LEAKAGE WHENEVER NECESSARY IN ORDER TO AVOID WATER WASTAGE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY): "THE MESSAGE 'WATER IS PRECIOUS. DON'T WASTE IT' IS BEING DISSEMINATED THROUGH A TELEVISION API (ANNOUNCEMENTS IN PUBLIC INTEREST), POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND STICKERS.

"THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED OF VARIOUS WAYS TO SAVE WATER SUCH AS TAKING A SHOWER INSTEAD OF A BATH AND NOT RINSING HANDS OR VEGETABLES UNDER A RUNNING TAP," HE ADDED.

THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IS ALSO AIMED AT ALERTING THE PUBLIC THAT UNDERGROUND OR CONCEALED LEAKAGE, IF NOT PROMPTLY DETECTED AND RECTIFIED, WILL RESULT IN WATER WASTAGE AND ABNORMALLY HIGH WATER CHARGES ON THE PART OF THE CONSUMERS.

"A HIGH WATER BILL, SOMETIMES AMOUNTING TO SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A FOUR-MONTH PERIOD, IS OFTEN MISTAKEN BY CONSUMERS AS AN INDICATION OF A FAULTY METER REGISTERING THE WRONG CONSUMPTION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"CONSUMERS THEN ASK FOR THE METER TO BE RE-READ AND TESTED WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF LEAKAGE.

"BY DOING THIS, THEY UNKNOWINGLY ALLOW THE LEAK TO CONTINUE, AND WILL RECEIVE A MUCH HIGHER WATER BILL. THIS COULD IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN RESULT IN DISCONNECTION OF THE WATER SUPPLY."

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED CONSUMERS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY FOR ALL THE WATER THAT HAD PASSED THROUGH THEIR METERS NO MATTER WHETHER THIS HAD TAKEN PLACE THROUGH NORMAL CONSUMPTION OR UNAWARED LEAKAGE.

"CONSUMERS SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER CHECKING THE PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS AND THEIR WATER-USING APPLIANCES, IF THEY SUSPECT ANY IRREGULARITIES OR THAT THE WATER METER IS RUNNING WITHOUT REASON. SHOULD ANY LEAK BE DISCOVERED, REPAIRS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY," HE SAID.

"THEY SHOULD ALSO KEEP THE PLUMBER'S BILL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. IF PROMPT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO DETECT AND REMEDY LEAKAGE, THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER THE HIGH WATER BILL CAUSED BY CONCEALED LEAKAGE WITH SYMPATHY," HE ADDED.

IN 1990, A TOTAL OF 463 APPLICATIONS FOR WATER CHARGE WAIVERS OF THIS NATURE WAS RECEIVED.

AMONG THESE APPLICATIONS, 323 CASES INVOLVING 840,000 CUBIC METRES OF WATER AND TOTAL WATER CHARGES OF \$2.24 MILLION WERE GIVEN COMPASSIONATE CONSIDERATION.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1991

- 4 -

COPIES OF A LEAFLET ADVISING CONSUMERS ON HOW TO HANDLE A HIGH WATER BILL ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRES IN WAN CHAI, SHAU KEI WAN, MONG KOK, KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN, TAI PO AND SAI KUNG.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO TELEPHONE 829 4693 OR 829 4694 TO LISTEN TO A RECORDED TELEPHONE MESSAGE ON A SIMPLE DO-IT-YOURSELF METHOD TO CHECK LEAKAGE IN ORDINARY DOMESTIC SUPPLY PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REMINDER ON FIREWORKS BAN

* * * * *

WITH THE APPROACH OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE TO POSSESS OR DISCHARGE FIREWORKS OR FIRE-CRACKERS WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE.

"UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON WHO POSSESSES OR DISCHARGES FIREWORKS WITHOUT A LICENCE IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," THE DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF EXPLOSIVES OFFICER, MR CHARLES CHING, SAID.

MR CHING SAID OFFICERS FROM THE MINES DIVISION WERE CONDUCTING SPOT CHECKS ON SHOPS AND PREMISES SUSPECTED OF SELLING OR STORING SUCH GOODS.

"UNLICENSED FIREWORKS FOUND WILL BE SEIZED AND THE OFFENDER PROSECUTED," HE SAID.

MR CHING ALSO URGED PEOPLE POSSESSING FIREWORKS TO SURRENDER THEM IMMEDIATELY TO THE MINES DIVISION ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KOWLOON, OR TO ANY POLICE STATION.

"THEY MAY ALSO CONTACT THE DIVISION ON TEL. 733 2356 OR 733 2358 FOR SUCH GOODS TO BE COLLECTED," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

- 5 -

FREE NEW YEAR POSTER ON WORK SAFETY

* * * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PRINTED A LUNAR NEW YEAR POSTER TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE OF WORK SAFETY TO EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS IN INDUSTRY.

DEPICTING AN INDIGENOUS CHINESE GOD WHO BESTOWS FORTUNE AND GOOD LUCK ON PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE FULL-COLOUR POSTER REMINDS PEOPLE IN ALL TRADES OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY IN ENSURING HAPPINESS FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

THE POSTER WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY) AT ALL BRANCH OFFICES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION, LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE RELATIONS SERVICE, AS WELL AS AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BUS TOUR TO SPREAD FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE

* * * * *

A DECORATED BUS TOURED THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT TODAY (SUNDAY) TO HELP SPREAD THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE.

THE TOUR WAS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC) TO URGE RESIDENTS TO PREVENT AND REPORT CRIME AND TO COME FORWARD AS WITNESS WHEN REQUIRED.

DURING THE TOUR, LUNAR NEW YEAR SCROLLS WITH FIGHT CRIME MESSAGES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS.

A CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL BEFORE THE TOUR TO PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS OF A STUDENT SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION HELD LAST MONTH.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, A FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBER; MR JUSTEIN WONG, URGED THE PUBLIC TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE POLICE IN COMBATTING CRIME.

THIS WOULD HELP IMPROVE LAW AND ORDER AND MAKE HONG KONG A SAFER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE, HE SAID.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALAN FUNG; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR GERALD FRITH; AND DFCC CHAIRMAN, MR FAN KAM-PING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1991

- 6 -

THREE WORKSHOPS, SEMINAR ORGANISED FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
* * * * *

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE HOLDING THREE ONE-DAY WORKSHOPS ON SELECTING, ADAPTING AND DESIGNING LANGUAGE EXERCISE FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 6 AND 7 AT THE CENTRE AT 9A BONHAM ROAD, MID-LEVELS.

"PLANNING AND SELECTION OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND TEACHERS WILL BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO PLAN, SELECT, ADAPT AND DESIGN EXERCISES FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES AND TO SUIT DIFFERENT ABILITIES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

ENQUIRIES ON THE COURSES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENTRE ON TEL. 548 2537.

MEANWHILE, THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT LECTURER OF NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, MR PETER KENNEDY, WILL BE GUEST SPEAKER AT A SEMINAR ON THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND/FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 9 AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REVISED OPENING TIME FOR SAI KUNG WSD CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE
* * * * *

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE IN SAI KUNG WILL ONLY BE OPEN ONE DAY A WEEK, STARTING FROM FEBRUARY 4, DUE TO LOW UTILISATION RATE.

THE OFFICE HOURS WILL BE FROM 8.30 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 4.30 PM ON EACH MONDAY.

THE CENTRE IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING AT MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG. IT HAS BEEN IN SERVICE SINCE 1986.

AT PRESENT, IT IS OPEN FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY FOR ANSWERING GENERAL ENQUIRIES ON WATER ACCOUNT MATTERS AND FOR DISTRIBUTING AND RECEIVING APPLICATION FORMS FOR SERVICES SUCH AS CONNECTION OF SUPPLY, METER TESTS AND CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.

AN AVERAGE OF SEVEN CASES ARE DEALT WITH DAILY BY THE CENTRE.

/A SPOKESMAN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1991

- 7 -

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID WITH THE REVISED OPENING HOURS, CUSTOMERS IN THE DISTRICT COULD OBTAIN GENERAL WATER WORKS FORMS AND LEAFLETS FROM THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING.

THE CENTRE ALSO HANDLES GENERAL ENQUIRIES SERVICE ON WATER SUPPLY MATTERS.

APPLICATIONS FOR VARIOUS WATER WORKS SERVICE COULD ALSO BE MADE BY POST, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT A TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE AT THE WAN CHAI ENQUIRY CENTRE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT GLOUCESTER ROAD CAN HANDLE 25 INCOMING CALLS AT ONE TIME TO OFFER CONVENIENT SERVICE. ITS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 824 5000.

- - - - 0 - - - -